

Remarks

Applicant has canceled claims 1 – 5, 10 – 11 and 14 – 22. Applicant also has amended claim 6. These amendments are not the addition of new matter, nor do they raise new issues.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully ask that the amendments be entered.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 6 – 9, 12 – 13 and 29 would be allowable, if claim 6 was corrected to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Method claims 23 – 38 then would be rejoined, and also allowed.

The misspelled word in claim 6, line 10 has been corrected.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claim 6 has been amended to recite "porous primary layer" instead of "fibrous base layer". Accordingly, Applicant respectfully ask that the rejection be withdrawn.

The cancellation of claims 1, 3 – 5, 14 – 15, and 20, has obviated the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent 5,965,658 to Smith et al.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully ask that the Examiner withdraw this rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 10 – 11 under 35

U.S.C. §102(b) or under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent 5,965,658 to Smith.

Claims 10 – 11 have been canceled.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asks that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 16 – 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent 5,965,658 in view of U.S. Patent 6,194,059 to Yesnik.

Claims 16 – 19 have been canceled.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asks that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 21 – 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent 5,965,658 to Smith.

Claims 21 – 22 have been canceled.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asks that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

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Applicant respectfully submits that claims 6 – 9, 12 – 13 and 23 – 29 are in condition for allowance and respectfully ask that the Examiner pass the claims to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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